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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Missoula, MT 59812
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Oct. 21, 1993

UM COLLABORATES ON YOUTH-MENTORING PROGRAM

MISSOULA --

A four-year \$100,000 grant to UM's Volunteer Action Services from the U.S. Department of Education will fund the development and startup costs of a student mentoring program at UM for at-risk adolescents.

The program, scheduled to get under way spring semester, will include a two-credit course titled Mentoring the Adolescent At-Risk. Students taking the course will be required to learn mentoring skills and apply them to a mentoring relationship with an at-risk youth. The program requires 60 hours of mentoring activity and reflects a major goal of Volunteer Action Services -- getting students involved in community service and engaged in discussion about it.

Social work Associate Professor Cindy Garthwait will teach the course, focusing on issues related to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders who are at risk for getting into trouble because of such things as drug and alcohol abuse, low grades, learning disabilities and family problems.

The program will also provide scholarships for five at-risk high school students with good academic records to participate and earn credits as mentors in the program.

Garthwait and Pat Murphy, coordinator of Volunteer Action Services, will co-direct the program. It is a collaborative effort by UM, Hellgate High School, School District 1 and several Missoula agencies dealing with young people at risk.

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